

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T USNATO 5559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG - OCTOBER 6 AND 10 STAFF GROUP MEETINGS

REF: A. USNATO 5314 DTG 301715Z SEP 75

B. STATE 237050 DTG 040052Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: AT MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 6 AND 10, STAFF GROUP (SG) DISCUSSED AND FURTHER REVISED THE DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT ON CNI - WARNING MESSAGES (REF A). THE REVISED DRAFT WILL BE CIRCULATED BY SYG LUNS FOR REVIEW IN CAPITALS AND SUBSEQUENT PERMREP APPROVAL. US REP (WOODWORTH) EMPHASIZED THE US VIEW OF THE WARNING MESSAGE CONSULTATION PROCESS (REF B). SG FURTHER DISCUSSED ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION OF WARNING MESSAGE PROCEDURES AS WELL AS THE WHISKEY MESSAGE FORMAT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CIMPILATION OF NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCEDURES. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 6 AND 10, SG DEVOTED THE MAJORITY OF ITS TIME TO DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT ON CNI - WARNING MESSAGES (REF A). SG SHARED THE VIEW OF US REP (WOODWORTH) THAT PAPER REQUIRED SOME EDITORIAL IMPROVE-
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MENT PARTICULARLY IN PARAS 6 THRU 8 WHERE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF WARNING MESSAGES WERE NOT DESCRIBED WITH SUFFICIENT CLARITY. SG MADE A NUMBER OF ESSENTIALLY EDITORIAL CHANGES TO THE ENTIRE PAPER ON OCTOBER 6. FINAL EIDITORIAL

CHANGES WERE MADE TO A REVISED DRAFT ON OCTOBER 10, AND THIS REVISED DRAFT WILL BE CIRCULATED BY SYG LUNS FOR REVIEW IN CAPITALS AND SUBSEQUENT PERMREP APPROVAL.

2. AT THE OCTOBER 6 MEETING, US REP, PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B, CALLED ATTENTION TO THE LANGUAGE IN PARA 13 OF THE DRAFT (REF A). HE SAID THAT HE WISHED TO INSURE THAT THERE WAS A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE US VIEW THAT THE NATURE OF CONSULTATION ON MESSAGES WHICH WOULD WARN OF INTENDED USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT FOR CONSULTATION ON USE ITSELF. HE SAID THAT, IN OTHER WORDS, THE FINAL AUTHORITY TO SEND A WARNING MESSAGE MUST REST WITH THE NUCLEAR POWER CONCERNED. NO STAFF GROUP REPS DISAGREED WITH THIS STATEMENT. ITALIAN AND NETHERLANDS REPS SAID THAT IT WAS THEIR VIEW THAT GENERAL WARNING MESSAGES, I.E., THOSE CARRYING ONLY IMPLICIT WARNINGS OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND WHICH MIGHT BE ISSUED IN THE EARLY STAGES OF CONFLICT, WOULD FIT INTO THE PROCESS OF GENERAL CONSULTATION AND THUS BE SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT THROUGH CONSENSUS. COMMENT: AS INDICATED ABOVE, THE ALLIES DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN WARNINGS OF A GENERAL NATURE AND WARNINGS OF A SPECIFIC NATURE WHICH WOULD BE RELATED TO A NUCLEAR USE DECISION. THEY EVIDENCED FULL UNDERSTANDING THAT FINAL AUTHORITY ON WARNINGS OF THE LATTER TYPE MUST REST WITH THE NUCLEAR POWER AND THEREFORE WE BELIEVE THAT LANGUAGE IN PARA 13 OF THE DRAFT IN REF A, WHICH IS RETAINED IN REVISED DRAFT, SHOULD SUFFICE. AS FOR GENERAL WARNINGS, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD LEAVE THE ISSUE UNTOUCHED, SINCE MAKING AGREEMENT ON SUCH WARNINGS IN CRISES SUBJECT TO CONSENSUS WOULD NOT SEEM TO ADVERSELY AFFECT US INTERESTS. END COMMENT.

3. CANADIAN REP (HAMLIN), COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL AGENDA, SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THAT THE PROPOSED EXAMINATION OF PROCEDURES RELATING TO POSSIBLE USE OF WARNING MESSAGES SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE HAMBURG NPG AGENDA ALONG WITH THE PERMREPS REPORT ON USE OF WARNING MESSAGES. FRG REP (HUBER) QUESTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF PREPARING A REPORT ON SECRET

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PROCEDURES IN THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE PRIOR TO HAMBURG AND SAID HE DOUBTED THAT THIS SUBJECT WARRANTED MINISTERIAL ATTENTION IN ANY CASE. UK, NETHERLANDS, AND US REPS AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO TACKLE THE QUESTION OF WARNING MESSAGE PROCEDURES PRIOR TO HAMBURG.

4. UK REP (BEAUMONT) CALLED ATTENTION TO CHANGES IN THE WARNING (WHISKEY) MESSAGES IN SACEUR'S SELECTIVE RELEASE PROCEDURES WHICH TOOK EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1 AND WHICH SHAPE WISHED TO INCORPORATE IN THE COMILATION OF NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCEDURES. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN THE PAST, SACEUR'S SELECTIVE RELEASE PROCEDURES HAD NOT BEEN APPROVED BY POLITICAL AUTHORITIES, BUT SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW, CHANGES TO THE PRO-

CECURES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO MINISTERS FOR COMMENT AND APPROVAL. HE ARGUED THAT THIS SEEMED LOGICAL SINCE THE VARIOUS MESSAGES IN THE NMC'S NUCLEAR RELEASE PROCEDURES WERE ULTIMATELY DESIGNED TO FACILITATE CONSULTATION AND PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR NUCLEAR POWER DECISIONS. THUS POLITICAL AUTHORITIES HAVE A DIRECT INTEREST IN THE FORMAT AND CONTENT OF SUBJECT MESSAGES. SHAPE REP (JULIAN) SAID THAT THE CHANGES IN THE WHISKEY MESSAGES AFFECTED FORMAT ONLY AND THAT THE SAME ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INCLUDED. HE SAID THAT SHAPE WOULD, OF COURSE, WISH POLITICAL AUTHORITIES TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE NEW FORMAT AND NOTED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN EXPERIENCE WITH ITS USE IN EXERCISES LIKE WINTEX. COMMENT: NO OTHER SG REPS SUPPORTED THE UK VIEW THAT THE CHANGE IN SACEUR'S NUCLEAR RELEASE PROCEDURES SHOULD BE CLEARED THROUGH POLITICAL AUTHORITIES. END COMMENT.STREATOR

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